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Mortality Declines to New Low in 1947

THE year 1947 established a new low record for mortality among the many million Industrial policyholders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The year was the fourth in succession to show an improvement in mortality. The crude death rate last year was 7.2 per 1,000 as compared with 7.3 in 1946, the previous banner health year. When allowance is made for the aging of the insured group, the improvement in mortality between 1946 and 1947 was somewhat greater than indicated by the crude rates.

The decline in mortality last year was relatively greater for females than for males, as may be seen in the table on page 2. Among white females, the standardized death rate at ages 1-74 dropped 4.6 percent between 1946 and 1947; among white males the reduction was 1.8 percent. Moreover, among the females every age group experienced a decline in mortality, whereas among the males the improvement was limited to the ages under 45. Last year a death rate of less than 1 per 1,000 was recorded in the broad age group 5-14 among white boys and in the age range 5-24 years among white females; the mortality fell to the remarkably low rate of 0.4 per 1,000 among white girls at 10-14 years.

The expectation of life at birth among the Industrial policyholders rose to an all-time high of 66.5 years in 1947, an increase of about one year since 1946. The figure for the expectation of life last year represents a gain of 10 years in the past two decades and of 20 years since 1911-1912.

In the light of the foregoing facts, it is not surprising that eight diseases recorded new low death rates in 1947. The list includes whooping cough, diphtheria, influenza, pneumonia, tuberculosis, syphilis, appendicitis, and the diseases incidental to childbearing.

The favorable mortality experience of last year was due in appreciable measure to the relatively low incidence of the acute respiratory conditions. The death rate from pneumonia and influenza together was 25.3 per 100,000 policyholders, or 16 percent below the previous minimum of 30.1 registered only the year before. The decline amounts to 70 percent since 1937, when the newer methods of treatment first came into general use.

The record for tuberculosis was exceedingly favorable in 1947, with the death rate reaching a new low of 33.8 per 100,000. The decline for the year was 9.6 percent, or close to three times the average annual reduction in the preceding decade.

Fortunately, there was no serious epidemic of the common diseases of childhood in 1947. As a consequence, the combined mortality for the four principal communicable diseases of childhood—measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, and diphtheria—established a new low rate of 1.3 per 100,000. This is almost one third below the previous minimum established a year earlier, and only one

TABLE 1—DEATH RATES PER 100,000 FROM ALL CAUSES, EXCLUDING DEATHS FROM ENEMY ACTION. WHITE PERSONS, BY SEX AND AGE PERIODS. 1942 TO 1947. METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS

AGE PERIOD YEARS	DEATH RATE PER 100,000						PERCENT CHANGE 1947† SINCE	
	1947†	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1946	1942
WHITE MALES								
1–74 Crude	727.9	716.9	739.7	740.0	737.0	687.5	+ 1.5	+ 5.9
1–74 Stand.*	627.1	638.7	684.8	699.2	721.3	686.1	— 1.8	— 8.6
1– 4	179.6	196.9	200.6	230.8	242.3	203.3	— 8.8	—11.7
5– 9	81.9	89.6	92.6	105.9	104.9	88.2	— 8.6	— 7.1
10–14	68.2	74.5	81.4	92.3	90.0	86.4	— 8.5	—21.1
15–19	123.1	146.3	168.3	180.4	164.4	145.2	—15.9	—15.2
20–24	160.5	223.6	339.3	334.5	299.3	216.6	—28.2	—25.9
25–34	202.5	230.7	295.4	279.1	284.2	259.2	—12.2	—21.9
35–44	482.7	499.8	545.2	538.1	582.4	599.6	— 3.4	—19.5
45–54	1,234.2	1,230.3	1,237.4	1,266.8	1,336.1	1,351.9	+ .3	— 8.7
55–64	2,674.2	2,611.8	2,671.7	2,744.8	2,821.6	2,787.4	+ 2.4	— 4.1
65–74	5,493.9	5,407.6	5,693.2	5,826.5	6,082.6	5,604.8	+ 1.6	— 2.0
WHITE FEMALES								
1–74 Crude	599.0	605.7	601.1	626.0	635.8	618.7	— 1.1	— 3.2
1–74 Stand.*	390.5	409.5	418.9	450.6	469.1	461.7	— 4.6	—15.4
1– 4	140.6	171.7	168.0	192.6	196.7	158.6	—18.1	—11.3
5– 9	53.1	62.1	66.0	67.4	70.1	61.7	—14.5	—13.9
10–14	40.2	46.8	50.9	58.3	58.8	58.0	—14.1	—30.7
15–19	66.0	68.3	69.3	90.2	86.5	92.4	— 3.4	—28.6
20–24	96.8	116.6	106.4	123.1	134.6	137.2	—17.0	—29.4
25–34	141.3	158.8	164.3	182.4	186.9	193.8	—11.0	—27.1
35–44	286.6	302.1	309.7	331.7	362.8	371.9	— 5.1	—22.9
45–54	673.5	684.7	717.4	723.8	757.6	787.5	— 1.6	—14.5
55–64	1,518.5	1,558.4	1,589.5	1,680.7	1,774.7	1,826.4	— 2.6	—16.9
65–74	3,884.8	3,993.7	4,078.4	4,441.8	4,538.4	4,187.2	— 2.7	— 7.2

*Standardized for age on the basis of the Standard Million Population of England and Wales, 1901.
†Provisional.

TABLE 2—CRUDE DEATH RATES PER 100,000 FROM SELECTED CAUSES. TOTAL PERSONS ALL AGES. METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS. 1911 AND 1937 TO 1947

CAUSE OF DEATH	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1911 (*a*)
ALL CAUSES—TOTAL	725.2	743.2	825.5	822.9	778.6	732.9	745.1	760.9	760.0	766.0	822.5	1,253.0
—Excluding enemy action	*724.6*	*731.2*	*737.9*	*754.6*	*764.1*	*728.4*	*744.7*	*760.6*	*759.9*	*766.0*	*822.5*	*1,253.0*
Typhoid fever	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.9	22.8
Communicable diseases of childhood	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.5	3.1	2.9	4.2	6.4	7.5	58.9
Measles	.2	.6	.2	.7	.6	.5	.8	.3	.6	1.6	1.0	11.4
Scarlet fever	.1	.1	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.6	.7	1.1	1.6	13.1
Whooping cough	.5	.6	.9	.6	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.6	2.0	3.0	7.1
Diphtheria	.5	.6	.9	.6	.7	.6	.6	.8	1.3	1.7	1.9	27.3
Influenza and pneumonia	25.3	30.1	30.2	41.4	41.2	33.5	42.9	43.4	52.7	58.1	85.1	131.1
Influenza	2.7	4.3	3.4	8.3	6.1	4.3	7.8	7.9	9.9	7.5	18.2	15.9 (*e*)
Pneumonia—all forms	22.6	25.8	26.8	33.1	35.1	29.2	35.1	35.5	42.8	50.6	66.9	115.2 (*e*)
Tuberculosis—all forms	33.8	37.4	37.0	39.4	40.1	41.7	42.1	44.6	45.2	47.2	52.1	224.6
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	30.7	34.0	33.4	35.7	36.3	37.6	38.2	40.2	40.6	42.1	46.7	203.0
Syphilis (*b*)	7.7	8.2	8.5	9.5	10.0	10.6	11.2	12.0	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.0
Acute poliomyelitis	.5	1.4	.9	1.2	.8	.3	.5	.5	.5	.3	1.1	1.6
Cancer—all forms	119.4	116.6	113.2	108.9	106.7	106.1	103.3	104.4	101.7	98.8	96.0	68.0
Diabetes mellitus	26.7	26.4	25.6	27.8	28.5	28.0	26.9	29.8	27.7	24.8	25.6	13.3
Principal chronic cardiovascular-renal diseases	345.0	339.4	335.0	336.9	345.0	324.1	319.5	330.9	319.0	307.7	313.7	301.0 (*e*)
Cerebral hemorrhage	68.0	66.8	66.2	65.1	65.5	60.4	60.2	61.0	59.7	58.5	59.7	64.2 (*e*)
Diseases of coronary arteries and angina pectoris	78.3	71.1	67.2	62.9	60.5	57.7	54.5	53.1	46.5	41.4	38.6	(*d*)
Other chronic heart diseases (*c*)	158.8	159.6	158.1	162.8	168.4	156.6	153.4	159.5	161.0	154.0	159.7	141.8
Chronic nephritis	39.9	41.9	43.5	46.1	50.6	49.4	51.4	57.3	51.8	53.8	55.7	95.0
Diarrhea and enteritis	2.8	2.5	3.6	4.7	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.6	5.4	7.4	8.9	27.9
Appendicitis	3.1	3.5	5.0	5.4	5.5	5.9	7.3	9.3	10.3	10.5	11.2	10.9
Puerperal state—total	3.1	3.2	3.6	4.1	4.2	4.5	4.8	4.9	5.4	6.2	6.9	19.8
Total external causes	56.1	71.7	152.7	130.8	75.9	64.2	61.3	59.0	59.5	62.2	67.7	97.9
Suicides	7.2	7.6	6.4	6.3	6.5	7.3	7.7	8.7	8.8	9.4	9.0	13.3
Homicides	3.9	4.4	3.3	3.2	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.4	4.8	7.2
Accidents—total	44.4	47.7	55.4	53.0	51.4	48.6	49.5	46.3	46.2	48.4	53.9	77.4
Home accidents	9.4	11.3	10.3	10.9	11.9	11.4	11.1	11.7	11.7	12.5	13.2	(*f*)
Occupational accidents	5.2	5.0	5.2	5.9	6.7	7.1	6.7	6.1	5.7	5.9	6.5	(*f*)
Motor vehicle accidents	15.7	16.5	15.0	14.0	13.3	16.7	20.9	18.2	18.3	18.6	22.1	2.3 (*e*)
War deaths (enemy action)	.6	12.0	87.6	68.3	14.5	4.5	.4	.3	.1	(*g*)	—	—
Other diseases and conditions	100.3	100.6	107.6	109.4	111.8	105.5	116.6	112.6	115.2	122.6	132.5	260.2

(*a*) Ages 1 and over.
(*b*) Includes aneurysm of the aorta for the years 1940 to 1947.
(*c*) Excludes pericarditis, acute endocarditis, and acute myocarditis.
(*d*) Included in Other diseases and conditions.
(*e*) Not comparable with the rates for 1937 to 1947.
(*f*) Not available.
(*g*) Less than 0.05 per 100,000.

sixth of the rate 10 years ago. For scarlet fever, there were no deaths whatever reported in six of the 12 months. Acute poliomyelitis, which reached epidemic proportions in 1946, likewise showed a reduction in mortality last year, the death rate declining to 0.5 per 100,000.

The diseases of middle and later life made a comparatively favorable record in 1947. When the crude death rates are adjusted for the aging

of the policyholder group, the figures for diabetes and for the cardiovascular-renal diseases were somewhat lower last year than in 1946. The adjusted death rate from cancer, however, showed a slight rise.

Accidents established a new low death rate in this insurance experience last year. Declines in mortality were registered for home, motor vehicle, and for "other" accidents; occupational fatalities alone increased. The reduction in the mortality from motor vehicle accidents amounted to 4.8 percent. Suicides and homicides were also less frequent in 1947 than in 1946. The rates from these causes were, however, above the figures in each of the three war years 1943-1945.

On the basis of the very favorable over-all mortality picture last year, there is good reason to view with optimism the prospects for 1948. There is nothing on the horizon that threatens to reverse the long-term downward trend of mortality. Actually, the recent advances in medical science and public health administration will undoubtedly continue to play a large and increasing role in preventing illness and premature death. It appears likely that the diseases which have been coming rapidly under control in recent years, notably tuberculosis and pneumonia, will record further declines in mortality in the current year. In addition, intensified efforts in the field of safety, and more particularly motor vehicle safety, should help curb the loss of life from accidents.

Seasonal Incidence of Disease

Most communicable diseases show marked seasonal variations, and may be grouped according to their season of maximum incidence. Some infections find the winter most suited for their spread, while others do not reach their peak until spring; still others rise to a maximum in summer, while a few diseases flourish in autumn. These facts are illustrated in the chart on page 5, which is based on cases occurring within the United States during the 10 years 1936-1945.

The respiratory diseases, typified by the common cold, influenza, and pneumonia, provide an outstanding example of the effect of season on the occurrence of illness. The incidence of these diseases is at a minimum during the summer, but the number of cases begins to increase thereafter, reaching a peak in January. Influenza reacts more sensitively to seasonal changes than does pneumonia. Inasmuch as the common cold is not a reportable disease, data are not available to show its seasonal pattern, but experience tells us that it follows a course similar to that of the other respiratory infections.

For some reason, the spring favors the growth and spread of some of the coccus group of bacteria. Typical of the infections of this group are septic sore throat, scarlet fever, and epidemic meningitis, all of which reach their highest incidence

SEASONAL INCIDENCE OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES, UNITED STATES, 1936-1945

in March. Measles, which appears to be caused by a virus, likewise shows a rapid rise in cases during the winter months and a maximum in the spring. After reaching its highest point in April, the incidence of measles declines very rapidly to a minimum level in August.

The infections characteristic of winter and spring hardly have passed their peak when the most common diseases of summer begin to make their appearance. These include such diseases as typhoid fever and bacillary dysentery, both of which are usually caused by polluted water, milk or other foods. Also included in the summer group are acute poliomyelitis and infectious encephalitis, and the mosquito-borne diseases malaria and yellow fever. Although the first two of the diseases just mentioned both attack the central nervous system, encephalitis shows a greater concentration of cases in summer than does poliomyelitis. Nearly one fourth of all encephalitis cases are reported in the month of August, after which the incidence of the disease declines rapidly. Cases of poliomyelitis, however, continue to increase in number until late September, and then begin to decrease. Diphtheria reaches its high point a little later in the year, in October and November.

Especially interesting is the seasonal variation of tularemia, a disease contracted from infected rodents, particularly rabbits. From February to October the incidence of tularemia remains fairly constant at a low level, but with the beginning of the hunting season in the late fall cases rise sharply in number to reach a peak in December, when they are about six times as frequent as in February-October.

No mention has been made so far of the relative frequency of the various diseases under survey. Actually, the infectious diseases with a maximum frequency in the winter and spring claim a far larger number of victims than do the infections characteristic of the other seasons.

Childlessness Highest Among Urban Wives

A CONSIDERABLE proportion of married women in our country remain childless throughout their lives. Currently, about one seventh of the women who had ever married leave their reproductive period without having had children.

The proportion of married women who are childless is higher in urban than in rural areas. Then, too, the proportion is higher for the women who have had at least a high school education than for those whose education was limited to grade school. These conclusions are drawn from the data in the table on page 7, which shows percentages of childless women among native white women ever married, according to age, educational attainment, and area of residence. Inasmuch as the average age at marriage is generally lower in rural than in urban areas, and rises with the increasing level of educa-

ADJUSTED PERCENTAGES* OF CHILDLESS WOMEN AMONG NATIVE WHITE WOMEN EVER MARRIED. ACCORDING TO AGE, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND RESIDENCE. UNITED STATES, 1940

AGE PERIOD YEARS	MAXIMUM YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED					
	Grade School			High School		College
	Under 5	5–6	7–8	1–3	4	1 or More
TOTAL UNITED STATES						
20–24	27.1	27.5	31.7	33.6	41.8	51.3
25–29	20.6	19.8	23.2	25.7	29.8	34.3
30–34	13.9	15.4	17.9	19.6	22.6	23.3
35–39	12.3	13.1	15.1	16.5	18.9	19.3
40–44	11.5	11.3	13.7	14.8	17.2	16.5
45–49	11.3	12.5	14.4	15.6	17.2	16.5
50–54	11.5	12.4	15.2	16.3	18.3	17.4
URBAN						
20–24	33.0	32.9	35.8	36.8	45.2	54.1
25–29	24.6	23.4	26.0	28.1	32.9	36.8
30–34	16.5	18.6	20.2	21.8	24.4	24.8
35–39	15.5	16.2	17.2	18.4	20.5	20.8
40–44	15.0	13.2	15.6	16.4	18.5	17.2
45–49	13.9	14.9	16.9	17.7	18.6	16.9
50–54	14.4	15.9	17.7	18.9	19.4	18.6
RURAL NONFARM						
20–24	26.3	26.4	29.3	29.1	38.0	49.1
25–29	20.3	17.6	21.5	23.6	26.5	31.5
30–34	14.1	14.6	16.7	17.3	21.9	21.7
35–39	11.8	12.8	14.4	14.9	17.6	16.9
40–44	9.5	12.6	13.1	14.4	15.3	16.5
45–49	11.8	12.7	13.7	14.1	15.3	17.2
50–54	11.3	10.8	14.7	16.2	18.0	17.0
RURAL FARM						
20–24	23.4	23.5	27.0	27.6	33.4	35.4
25–29	17.5	17.1	18.1	18.8	22.0	26.3
30–34	10.2	10.4	12.8	14.3	14.8	19.0
35–39	9.5	8.6	10.8	12.0	13.1	16.8
40–44	9.0	7.6	9.8	10.6	12.7	13.4
45–49	8.6	9.0	9.8	11.3	12.8	14.2
50–54	8.5	8.3	10.7	9.9	13.0	14.2

*The percentages for each age group were adjusted to eliminate the effect of variations in duration of marriage arising out of differences in area of residence and in educational level. Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Population, Differential Fertility, 1940 and 1910—Fertility by Duration of Marriage, Washington, D. C., 1947, Tables 9 and 29.

tional attainment, adjustments have been made in the basic figures for childlessness, from the Census of 1940, to render the data comparable.

The uppermost tier of the table presents the situation in the country as a whole. At ages 20 to 24 years, of the wives who had attended college for at least one year, more than one half were childless, as compared with a little more than a quarter of those who had completed less than five years of grade school. The margin between the two groups narrows, however, with advance in age. By the end of the reproductive period, at ages 50 to 54 years, 17.4 percent of women who have had some college training remained childless, as against 11.5 percent of the women with minimum schooling.

The proportion of childless married women is highest in urban places, somewhat lower in nonfarm rural areas, and lowest in farm areas. This general relationship holds for each level of educational attainment and at virtually every age period. Thus at ages 20 to 24, the proportion of childlessness among the women of least education was 33.0 percent in urban areas, 26.3 percent in rural nonfarm, and 23.4 percent in farm areas; for women at these ages who had attended college, the respective percentages were 54.1, 49.1, and 35.4. The figures just quoted also indicate that, at the younger ages, the variation in childlessness according to area of residence is materially greater for the college women than for those who had only a very limited education. At the older ages, on the other hand, the college group shows the least variation with area of residence.

The relatively high level of the birth rate during the war and postwar years has undoubtedly reduced the percentage of childlessness, particularly among young women. It may well be that the upsurge in the birth rate has narrowed the margin between the better educated and the less educated women, and between those who live in cities and towns and those in rural areas. It can hardly be expected, however, that the postwar patterns with respect to childlessness will be much different from that of the prewar days, as exemplified by the data presented in this study. The Census of 1950 may throw some light on this matter.

Population Growth Most Rapid in Far West

OUTSTANDING among the recent demographic developments in our country has been the remarkable increase in population on the Pacific Coast. Some of the increase is accounted for by the large crop of babies in the war and postwar years, but for the most part it represents an influx of people from the older farm and industrial areas.

In little more than seven years—from the time of the Federal Census in April 1940 to the middle of last year—the population of the Pacific Coast States increased 40 percent. This is proportionately about 4½

times the increase for the United States as a whole (see Table 1). Not since the decade following the California gold rush, has the population in any geographic division grown so much more rapidly than the aggregate. The gain of 3,892,000 in the population of the Pacific Coast States represents one third of the total increase in our country in this period.

California, with a gain of nearly 3,000,000, added more people to its population than did any of the other Pacific States, and, in fact, more than did any other State in the Union. The Los Angeles Metropolitan District alone grew by more than 1,000,000, while the San Francisco-Oakland area increased by at least 560,000. The State of Washington added about 500,000 to its population, and Oregon more than 425,000.

Several States outside the Pacific division have also made large gains in population between April 1940 and July 1947, but in none of these cases was the percent increase as much as that for the States on the West Coast. Michigan gained close to 1,000,000 inhabitants, Ohio 866,000, Texas 703,000, and New York 613,000.

In contrast, the population in the East South Central and the West North Central divisions remained almost stationary from 1940 to 1947. The Dakotas, in fact, recorded material population losses, continuing a trend which had been in evidence for a number of years prior.

The Pacific Coast States, as a result of their rapid growth in population, have been embracing an increasing proportion of all the people in the country. This may be seen from Table 2, which shows the percent distribution of population, by geographic divisions, from 1870 to 1947. As recently as 1930, the population in the Pacific and the

TABLE 1—PERCENT INCREASE IN POPULATION FROM ONE DECADE TO THE NEXT, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, 1880 TO 1947

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	PERCENT INCREASE FROM PRECEDING CENSUS							
	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1947*
TOTAL UNITED STATES.....	30.1	25.5	20.7	21.0	14.9	16.1	7.2	8.9
New England.....	15.0	17.2	19.0	17.2	12.9	10.3	3.3	10.5
Middle Atlantic.....	19.1	21.0	21.6	25.0	15.2	18.0	4.9	4.6
East North Central.....	22.8	20.3	18.6	14.2	17.7	17.8	5.3	10.3
West North Central.....	59.7	45.1	15.8	12.5	7.8	6.0	1.7	1.3
South Atlantic.....	29.8	16.6	17.9	16.8	14.7	12.9	12.9	9.4
East South Central.....	26.8	15.1	17.4	11.4	5.7	11.2	9.0	—0.1†
West South Central.....	64.3	42.2	37.8	34.5	16.6	18.9	7.3	6.2
Mountain.....	107.1	85.9	38.0	57.3	26.7	11.0	12.1	6.0
Pacific.....	65.1	69.4	28.0	73.5	32.8	47.2	18.8	40.0

*Based on provisional estimates, by the Bureau of the Census, of the population in the United States on July 1, 1947, excluding armed forces overseas.
†Decrease.

TABLE 2—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, 1870 TO 1947

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1947*
TOTAL UNITED STATES	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
New England	9.0	8.0	7.5	7.4	7.1	7.0	6.7	6.4	6.5
Middle Atlantic	22.9	20.9	20.2	20.3	21.0	21.1	21.4	20.9	20.1
East North Central	23.7	22.3	21.4	21.0	19.8	20.3	20.6	20.2	20.5
West North Central	10.0	12.3	14.2	13.6	12.7	11.9	10.8	10.3	9.5
South Atlantic	15.2	15.1	14.1	13.7	13.3	13.2	12.9	13.5	13.6
East South Central	11.4	11.1	10.2	9.9	9.1	8.4	8.1	8.2	7.5
West South Central	5.3	6.6	7.5	8.6	9.6	9.7	9.9	9.9	9.7
Mountain	.8	1.3	1.9	2.2	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.1
Pacific	1.8	2.2	3.0	3.2	4.6	5.3	6.7	7.4	9.5

*Based on provisional estimates, by the Bureau of the Census, of the population in the United States on July 1, 1947, excluding armed forces overseas.

New England States each accounted for 6.7 percent of the total. By 1947, however, the Pacific States included 9.5 percent of the population, as compared with 6.5 for New England.

It is pertinent to note that the other relatively new sections of the country—the Mountain States and the West South Central States—have not kept pace with the population growth of the country as a whole since 1940, reversing the trend in evidence for several decades past. The eastern seaboard and the South for many years have been accounting for a steadily declining proportion of our population. The general westward movement of population, which has been the outstanding characteristic of our demographic history, will probably continue for some time, and will influence the social and economic life of our country in the future, as it has in the past.

Comparative Data on the Causes of Death Among Industrial Policyholders

The following table shows the mortality among Industrial policyholders for December 1947 and December 1946, together with the death rates for the years 1947, 1946, and 1945.

DEATH RATES* PER 100,000 POLICYHOLDERS FROM SELECTED CAUSES
WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

CAUSE OF DEATH	ANNUAL RATE PER 100,000 POLICYHOLDERS*				
	December 1947	December 1946	Year 1947	Year 1946	Year 1945
ALL CAUSES—TOTAL	710.1	700.5	725.2	743.2	825.5
—Excluding enemy action	*710.0*	*699.5*	*724.6*	*731.2*	*737.9*
Typhoid fever	—	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3
Measles	0.1	—	.2	.6	.2
Scarlet fever	.1	.2	.1	.1	.3
Whooping cough	.6	.3	.5	.6	.9
Diphtheria	.4	.7	.5	.6	.9
Influenza	2.1	2.3	2.7	4.3	3.4
Pneumonia (all forms)	23.5	24.7	22.6	25.8	26.8
Tuberculosis (all forms)	27.5	32.8	33.8	37.4	37.0
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	25.7	30.5	30.7	34.0	33.4
Syphilis	7.0	7.7	7.7	8.2	8.5
Acute poliomyelitis	.4	.9	.5	1.4	.9
Cancer (all forms)	114.4	111.2	119.4	116.6	113.2
Diabetes mellitus	25.0	24.2	26.7	26.4	25.6
Cerebral hemorrhage	68.6	72.1	68.0	66.8	66.2
Diseases of the coronary arteries and angina pectoris	80.4	66.9	78.3	71.1	67.2
Other chronic heart diseases†	153.2	145.1	158.8	159.6	158.1
Diarrhea and enteritis	2.1	2.8	2.8	2.5	3.6
Appendicitis	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.5	5.0
Chronic nephritis	37.6	37.6	39.9	41.9	43.5
Puerperal state—total	2.5	2.5	3.1	3.2	3.6
Suicides	5.8	5.7	7.2	7.6	6.4
Homicides	3.1	3.8	3.9	4.4	3.3
Accidents—total	40.4	45.7	44.4	47.7	55.4
Home accidents	7.6	9.7	9.4	11.3	10.3
Occupational accidents	4.1	3.3	5.2	5.0	5.2
Motor vehicle accidents	15.1	17.7	15.7	16.5	15.0
War deaths (enemy action)	.1	1.0	.6	12.0	87.6
All other causes of death	112.4	109.2	100.3	100.6	107.6

*The rates for 1947 are subject to slight correction, since they are based on provisional estimates of lives exposed to risk.
†International List (1940) titles 92, 93 (c), (d), (e), and 95.

Correspondence on the subjects discussed in these BULLETINS may be addressed to: The Editor,

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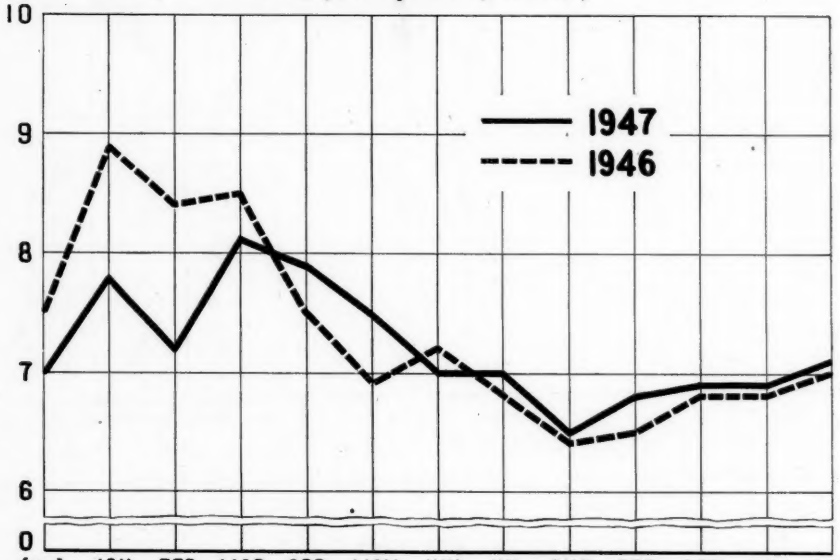
MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
INDUSTRIAL DEPARTMENT, WEEKLY PREMIUM-PAYING BUSINESS

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 ANNUAL BASIS (*1947 figures are provisional*)



(DEC)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1946	8.9	8.4	8.5	7.5	6.9	7.2	6.8	6.4	6.5	6.8	6.8	7.0
1947	7.8	7.2	8.1	7.9	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.1

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